



Joint News Release

Boise, Idaho

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Idaho
Legislature

Release ENRIC-2004-6

Bear River Legislative Working Group **Sets Meeting For April 27 In Preston**

(Boise, Idaho – April 19, 2004) - The Bear River Working Group of the Expanded Natural Resources Interim Committee will meet Tuesday, April 27, in Preston, the Committee announced today.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the Robinson Building in Preston. The meeting is open to the public.

Included in items to be discussed are organizational matters such as meeting times and locations; list of key stakeholders and staff; and a review of the working group charge.

Additional responsibilities of the Working Group include:

- Establish benchmarks. The objective is to have a plan of action to define what constitutes success. The working group, along with all working groups, is to review the three components that affect aquifer water levels, i.e., methods for enhancing water supply/recharge; water use efficiencies; and reduction in ground water use. Each area should be reviewed over the course of the year and a recommendation should be made to the Expanded Natural Resources Interim Committee as to what actions should be pursued in each area;
- Present questions and/or concerns to the Interim Committee. The Interim Committee needs to know what state policy issues should be addressed by the main committee and in what order the issues should be addressed. The committee structure is a two-way affair - if there are issues of broad statewide importance upon which the working group needs direction, those issues need to be presented to the Interim Committee to be addressed;
- Report to the Interim Committee on any resource needs of the working group to accomplish its tasks; and
- Immediately begin discussions on goals and objectives for aquifer management.

Agenda items may be revised prior to the meeting. Please check the Internet pages noted below for additional information.

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Four Idaho legislators make up the Bear River Working Group. They are: Senate President Pro Tem Robert Geddes of Soda Springs; Rep. Scott Bedke of Oakley; Rep. Larry Bradford of Franklin; and Sen. Bert Marley of McCammon.

The Bear River Working Group is one of five working groups formed by the Idaho Legislature's Natural Resources Interim Committee to deal with water supply and management issues across the State.

If you have any questions, please call the Legislative Services Office at (208) 334-2475. Future notices, agendas and minutes will be posted on the Idaho Legislature's Internet page: <http://www2.state.id.us/legislat/legislat.html>.

Other working group information is available at www.idwr.state.id.us/Committee

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